

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

At page 1, starting on line 2, please insert the following new paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a continuation of International Application PCT/AT02/00058, with an international filing date of February 27, 2002, now abandoned.

At page 1, in the center of the page between the above inserted paragraph and line 3, please insert the heading: "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION".

At page 1, in the center of line 23, please insert the heading: "SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION".

At page 4, in the center of line 9, please insert the heading: "BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING".

At page 4, in the center of line 20, please insert the heading: "DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION".

Please add the following abstract on a separate page at the conclusion of the specification following claims 1-25:

ABSTRACT

A device for igniting a fuel/air mixture in the combustion chamber of an internal combustion engine, particularly a stationary gas engine, with at least one light source, an optical transmission device and launching optics for focusing light into the combustion chamber. At least one master light source is provided for the continuous or periodic delivery of untriggered master light pulses, which themselves, are not capable of igniting. The optical transmission device has at least one amplifier, which can be selectively triggered and which amplifies individual or groups of master light pulses to an energy level that is sufficient for igniting the fuel/air mixture.